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CURRENT LITERATURE.

MINOR NOTICES.

The algae.—The second volume of OLTMANNS' large work on the algae has appeared.¹ This part treats of a variety of general topics, the first volume having been devoted especially to the different groups. Among the subjects are the algal cell, the development of reproductive organs, the nourishment of algae, life conditions, response to stimuli, polymorphism, life histories, adaptations, and a discussion of methods of collection, study, and culture. The two volumes give an excellent digest of the large literature in phycology and will prove very valuable as the starting point for many lines of further advance. Some of OLTMANNS' views, as for example that of the place of the tetraspore in the life history of red algae, are not likely to be sustained, but the work is a very scholarly contribution to botanical science and will be welcomed as the only publication of its class in the field of phycology.—B. M. DAVIS.

North American Flora.²—The general character and scope of this great work were stated in this journal in connection with the appearance of the first part.³ Another part has now appeared, being a direct continuation of the former one, and both belong to volume 22 in the general scheme.

Saxifragaceae.—*Conimitella*, *Elmera*, and *Ocrearia* are established as new genera, and 30 other genera are recognized; new species are described under *Lithophragma* (8), *Tellima*, *Mitella* (2), *Pectiantia*, *Ozomelis*, *Heuchera* (25), *Sullivantia*, *Therophon* (3), *Saxifraga*, *Muscaria* (4), *Micranthes* (12), *Spatularia*, *Leptasea* (3), and *Heterisia*.

Hydrangeaceae.—*Neodeutzia* is established as a new genus, and 9 other genera are recognized; new species are described under *Philadelphus* (11) and *Edwinia* (2).—J. M. C.

Philippine plants.—Recent bulletins (nos. 29 and 35) from the Bureau of Government Laboratories show commendable activity in the study of Philippine plants. ELMER D. MERRILL, botanist of the laboratory, is publishing a series of papers on new or noteworthy plants, the third and fourth papers appearing

¹ OLTMANNS, F., *Morphologie und Biologie der Algen*. Zweiter Band. Allgemeiner Teil. 8vo. pp. vi + 443. Jena: Gustav Fischer. 1905. *M* 12.

² North American Flora. Vol. 22. Part 2. Saxifragaceae, Hydrangeaceae, JOHN KUNKEL SMALL, PER AXEL RYDBERG. Cunoniaceae, Iteaceae, Hamamelidaceae, NATHANIEL LORD BRITTON. Petrostemonaceae, PERCY WILSON. Phyllonomaceae, HENRY HURD RUSBY. 8vo. pp. 81–191. New York: The New York Botanical Garden. December 18, 1905. Subscription price \$1.50 for each part.

³ BOT. GAZETTE 40: 74. 1905.

in the bulletins before us, and containing descriptions of nearly 150 new species. There are also notes on the Gramineae by E. HACKEL, including descriptions of 2 new species; an account of the Scitamineae by HENRY N. RIDLEY, 8 new species being characterized; and 10 new species of Acanthaceae by C. B. CLARKE.—J. M. C.

Aster.—In 1902⁴ E. S. BURGESS published a "History of Pre-Clusian Botany in its relation to Aster;" and now a second paper on Aster has appeared,⁵ which deals with the "Biotian Asters." Under the head of variation, specific limits in the genus are discussed; also normal characters and the comparative variability of organs. There is no group of flowering plants in which such a discussion would seem more difficult. A systematic treatment of the species is also begun, 84 species being presented with great fullness, 58 of which are published for the first time; also 10 subspecies and about 250 subordinate forms are characterized.—J. M. C.

Festuca.—C. V. PIPER⁶ has published a monograph of the North American species of Festuca, recognizing 34 species, and characterizing 3 of them as new. A third subgenus is added to Vulpia and Eufestuca, to include *F. confinis* Vasey, and is called *Hesperochloa*. There are also notes on several Mexican species including descriptions of 2 new species. A new word is added to the terminology of grasses. The word "glume" is restricted to the "empty glumes;" while the "lower palet" or "outer palet" or "flowering glume" of authors is the *lemma*, a Greek word meaning husk or scale.—J. M. C.

Plants of the Bahamas.—Dr. C. F. MILLSPAUGH, Field Columbian Museum, has issued the first paper⁷ of a series dealing with the flora of the Bahamas, Amaranthaceae, Euphorbiaceae, Rubiaceae, and Verbenaceae are presented, and a new species of Solanum is described. New species are also described under Iresine (2), Argythamnia (2), Euphorbia (3), Chiococca, Lantana, Valerianodes, and Callicarpa; and two new genera (*Nashia* and *Pseudocarpidium*) of Verbenaceae are established.—J. M. C.

Lichens of Santa Cruz.—A. W. C. R. HERRE⁸ has published an account of the foliaceous and fruticose lichens of the Santa Cruz peninsula, which is a natural biological region lying west of San Francisco Bay and extending south-

⁴ Mem. Torr. Bot. Club, 10.

⁵ BURGESS, EDWARD SANFORD, Species and variations of Biotian Asters, with discussion of variability in Aster. Mem. Torr. Bot. Club 13: 419. figs. 108. 1906.

⁶ PIPER, CHARLES V., North American species of Festuca. Contrib. U. S. Nat. Herb. 10: 1-48. pls. 1-15. 1906.

⁷ MILLSPAUGH, C. F., Praenunciae Bahamenses. I. Field Columb. Mus. Bot. 2: 137-184. 1906.

⁸ HERRE, ALBERT W. C. T., The foliaceous and fruticose lichens of the Santa Cruz peninsula, California. Proc. Wash. Acad. Sci. 7: 325-396. 1906.